

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1 (Original): A transgenic mammal whose genome comprises a stably integrated transgenic nucleotide sequence encoding an FGF19 operably linked to a promoter.

2 (Original): The transgenic mammal of claim 1, wherein said mammal is a mouse.

3 (Original): The transgenic mammal of claim 1, wherein said FGF19 is expressed in skeletal muscle.

4 (Original): The transgenic mammal of claim 1, wherein said mammal acquires hepatic disease.

5 (Original): The transgenic mammal of claim 4, wherein said disease is hepatocellular carcinoma.

6 (Original): The transgenic mammal of claim 1, wherein said mammal serves as an animal model for the study and development of treatments for said hepatocellular carcinoma.

7 (Original): The transgenic mammal of claim 1, wherein said mammal has elevated levels of alpha-fetoprotein.

8 (Original): The transgenic mammal of claim 1, wherein said mammal exhibits increased proliferation of pericentral hepatocytes as compared with a control, non-transgenic mammal.

9 (Original): An isolated cell from the mammal of claim 1, wherein said cell expresses said FGF19.

10 (Original): A method for screening for biologically active agents that modulate a phenomenon associated with hepatocellular carcinoma, the method comprising:

combining a candidate agent with a transgenic mammal having a genome comprising a stably integrated transgene encoding FGF19 operably linked to a promoter, wherein said transgene results in said mammal acquiring hepatocellular carcinoma; and

determining the effect of said agent on the hepatocellular carcinoma of said mammal.

11 (Original): A method for screening for biologically active agents that modulate a phenomenon associated with hepatocellular carcinoma, the method comprising:

combining a candidate agent with a transgenic mammal cell culture, each cell of said culture comprising a stably integrated transgene encoding FGF19 operably linked to a promoter, wherein said transgene results in said mammal acquiring hepatocellular carcinoma; and

determining the effect of said agent on the transgenic mammal cell culture.

12-178 (canceled)